

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET

January 5, 1963

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Dear 

It has recently been my pleasure to visit a number of the military units in the Southeast which took part in a very direct way in support of our Government's position in the Cuban crisis in October of this year. I thus had the welcome opportunity to personally congratulate their officers and men on the very real contribution they had made at a critical time in this Nation's history, and to express to them their Government's gratitude for a job well done.

Circumstances did not permit me to acknowledge openly your Detachment's significant and extended contribution to what was accomplished in the days and months prior to the climax of the Cuban situation. In spite of this, I want you, your fellow officers and men, your skilled civilian pilots, staff employees and supporting technical representatives, to know of my real and abiding appreciation for the fine job you have done so quietly for so long, not only in Cuba but in other areas of the world where vital intelligence must continue to be obtained in order to guarantee the cause of freedom. The dangers are no less real, the hardships no less difficult and your achievement no less important to your country than those experienced by the men whom we can honor publicly.

SECRET

**\*NSC Exemption Instructions On File\***

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Please accept assurances of my gratitude for your efforts, and extend to your entire command my sincerest thanks for their sustained superior performance.

With esteem and warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John A. ...". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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Edwards Air Force Base  
California

SECRET